

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today that the Veterans Administration has signed a lease for a new health care clinic in Manatee County. Buchanan toured the Community Based Outpatient Clinic today in Ellenton and received an update on plans to expand and consolidate the general and mental health care services currently provided by the clinic in Ellenton and the Outpatient Mental Health Clinic.

“Local veterans are fortunate to have access to the quality care provided by the existing facilities,” said Buchanan. “But the new facility will be located close to I-75 and include additional services that are now accessible only at Bay Pines.”

The new facility will allow the Bay Pines VA Health Care System to expand primary and mental healthcare services as well as offer some specialty care services including a women’s veteran health care team, mental health services, pharmacy and social work staff, eye care and imaging services.

“I represent more than 95,000 veterans,” said Buchanan. “They deserve the best care possible. I will continue to work with the VA on the timely completion of this project.”

The VA has signed a lease on a new, build-to-suit 12,455 square foot property in the Morgan Johnson Office Park on state road 64 in Bradenton. The new clinic could open as soon as the summer of 2009, depending on the building and permitting process.

Buchanan is a member of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee and the Health Subcommittee. He recently received the Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative Achievement Award for his legislative efforts to improve the health care and benefits available to those who have served in the armed forces.